



**Congresswoman Betty McCollum - Minnesota's 4th District**  
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Dear Friend,

This week, World AIDS Day was observed around the globe, celebrating progress made in the battle against the epidemic - and brings into focus remaining challenges. This year's theme is entitled, "Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS."

The fight against AIDS globally is increasingly both challenging and promising. We also find that the global epidemic is ever more present in Minnesota, with increasing rates of HIV infection occurring in African-born Minnesotans and women of color. This week, I joined the Minnesota AIDS Project at their annual World AIDS forum to discuss the state of U.S. AIDS prevention efforts around the world. [Click here](#) to read more.

Many parents will be buying video games for their children this holiday season. Before games are purchased parents need to watch the video games their kids play. In addition, I encourage you to read [the Media Wise Ninth Annual Video Game Report Card](#). The Report Card provides a snapshot of the video game industry with a focus on its affect on children and teens. [Click here](#) to read more.

If you have not signed up for my e-newsletter, please [click here to stay updated](#). Please visit my [website](#) for the latest information on the work I do on behalf of Minnesota families. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

### McCollum Observes World AIDS Day



Congresswoman Betty McCollum was the featured speaker for [Minnesota AIDS Project's](#) World AIDS Day forum on December 1 at Macalester College. As a member of the House International Relations Committee, McCollum was involved with drafting the U.S. plan for responding to the global AIDS epidemic. [Read Rep. McCollum's full speech.](#)

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Congresswoman Betty McCollum  
Serving Minnesota's Fourth District

## News Alert:

### Commemorating World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is commemorated around the globe on December 1st. It celebrates progress made in the battle against the epidemic - and brings into focus remaining challenges. This year's theme is entitled, "Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS." Below are a few alarming statistics:

- 39.4 million people living with HIV in 2004
- 4.9 million people newly infected with HIV in 2004
- 3.1 million people died of AIDS in 2004

On World AIDS Day, UNAIDS released a new report on the global AIDS epidemic, "[AIDS Epidemic Update 2004](#)" which provides the most recent estimates of the epidemic's scope and human toll. This year's report also features a special section on women and AIDS. [Click here](#) to view a slideshow on AIDS.

Read more about my work on HIV-AIDS, [McCollum Discusses AIDS in Africa](#).

### Parental Warning: "Watch the Games Your Kids Are Playing"

Last week, I joined Senator Joe Lieberman (D-CT) and Dr. David Walsh of the [National Institute on the Media and the Family](#) to announce the [Ninth Annual Video Game Report Card](#).

The year's mixed findings indicate that while nearly nine out of ten retailers now have policies restricting the sale of Mature (M) rated games, the impact on youth of increasingly violent and sexually explicit games is a growing concern. In a secret shopper survey, half of boys aged seven to fourteen were still able to purchase M-rated games. Meanwhile, 87% of boys say they play M-rated games and 78% list an M-rated game among their favorites.

Parents need to watch the video games their kids are playing before buying this holiday season. Many of the most popular games contain graphic and extreme violence and sexual content - in which players are "virtual victimizers" and "first person killers."

Read more on [video game violence](#).

### Contact Information

website: <http://www.mccollum.house.gov/>

#### Washington Office

1029 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6631  
(202) 225-1968 fax

#### St. Paul Office

165 Western Ave North Suite 17  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
(651) 224-9191  
(651) 224-3056 fax



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